THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE L. NARASIMHA REDDY

WRIT PETITION No. 19109 OF 2005

DATED: 30.08.2005

Between:

A. Sudhakar

... PETITIONER

AND

The Secretary, Regional Transport Authority,

(Regional Transport Officer),

Kadapa & another.

... RESPONDENTS

ORAL ORDER:

The Bus of the petitioner, bearing R.No. PY01 W 4988, was seized on 30.11.2004, on the ground that the records of the vehicle were not available with the driver, and the petitioner failed to produce the necessary documents in relation to it. The petitioner challenges the seizure.

Heard, Sri R.K. Jwala, learned counsel for the petitioner and learned Government Pleader for the respondents.

A perusal of the Vehicle Check Report, dated 30.11.2004, issued by the 1st respondent, discloses that the records were not available with the driver, the permit and proof of tax were not filed and that individual fairs were collected from the passengers. The liability of the petitioner in the context of these observations needs to be established in the proceedings to be initiated under the relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. If the vehicle is detained and kept in the custody of the 2nd respondent till such proceedings take place, not only the petitioner would be put to irreparable loss, but also the vehicle would be exposed to the danger of theft and damage. The interest of the State can be protected by imposing necessary conditions while permitting the petitioner to keep the custody of the vehicle.

For the foregoing reasons, the writ petition is disposed of, directing that;

a. the Bus, bearing R.No.PY01 W 4988, shall be released to the petitioner on his depositing a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only).

b. the petitioner shall also furnish an undertaking to the effect that he shall not alienate the vehicle till the proceedings in pursuance of the Check Report are finalized and that he shall produce the vehicle as and when required.

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30.08.2005

Note: Issue C.C. tomorrow.

B/o.

ES/JSU